

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 10, 1865.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

The Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to the fine specimen of the Manchurian Deer from Newchwang, now in the Society's Gardens, which had been received from Mr. Swinhoe on the 4th of July, 1864, and which was the specimen upon which Mr. Swinhoe had proposed to found his species, *Cervus mantchuricus*, P. Z. S., 1864, p. 169.

With reference to this animal, the Secretary read the following extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Swinhoe to Dr. Gray, dated Amoy, 6th October, 1864:—

“Amoy, 6th October, 1864.

“I find here a magnificent buck Deer in the possession of Mr. Pasedag, the gentleman from whom I procured the Newchwang Deer for the Gardens on my arrival in China. This noble animal, which stands 4 feet high from the shoulder, is also from Newchwang, and being in fine spotted red summer coat, and of a commanding stature, I took it at first for a distinct species. But on closer examination, I feel pretty convinced it is of the same breed as the animal for which I proposed the name *Cervus mantchuricus*; and that on second thought I suspect will turn out to be the same as the three skins I forwarded to the Museum from the summer residence of the Chinese Emperor, the oldest buck of which you had figured in the ‘Proceedings’ as *C. pseudaxis*, and for which Blyth has proposed the name *C. mantchuricus*, and I, subsequently, *C. hortulorum*.

“*Cervus mantchuricus*. Approaching the *Axis* type, closely allied to *Cervus taivanus* and *C. sika*, more so, apparently, to the former.

“Fine buck from Newchwang, still in summer coat; examined 30th

PROC. ZOOL. SOC.—1865, No. I.

g x

September, 1864. General colour reddish brown. Under neck and fore thighs covered with rather long dusky brown hair. Hair of neck, chiefly on its back part, and down part of the back list, long and shaggy. List black between the shoulders, fading towards the tail. Inner portion of hind thighs, inside hair of ears, a large spot on the outer portion of back of ear near its root, rim round the eye, chin, and throat white. Body ornamented with large spots of white. Tail, including apical hair, nearly one foot long. The hair that overhangs the roots of the tail on either side black; basal half of tail white; apical half black, with white tips; under the tail and between the hams white. Knees and front of tibiæ brown. Head, from crown to tip of nose, about 20 inches long; ear about 9 inches. Forehead and before the eyes reddish; rest of face brownish fawn-colour. Horns with frontal tine about 5 inches long, bent a little downwards at the tip; about 8 inches in the stem between lowest tine and the next above, which are broken and represented only by a knob; top stem between that and the top knob about 4 inches.

“This is the finest species of the Spotted Deer I have seen. Besides being much larger than the *C. taëvanus* of Formosa, it is at once to be distinguished by the much greater proportion of white in the tail and hind parts, and by the faintness of the dorsal list; but doubtless many other more considerable distinctive characters will be found to exist on a careful comparison of the two species. With *C. sika* it has much less in common; and this bears out the opinion I advanced as to the greater probability of the fauna of Formosa having been derived from the Chinese main rather than from the Japanese islands. But it is curious that at the present day, south of the Yangtze River, the only Spotted Deer known to exist is what I take to be the true *Cervus axis*, some of which from Hankow I saw captive in Hongkong, and reported on in a former letter.”

The following papers were read:—

1. ON THE FISHES OF COCHIN, ON THE MALABAR COAST OF INDIA. BY SURGEON F. DAY, F.Z.S., F.L.S., ETC., MADRAS ARMY.

Part I. ACANTHOPTERYGII.

During a few years' residence at Cochin, on the Malabar or western coast of India, whilst inquiring into the fauna, I made a collection of fresh- and salt-water fish, a short account of which I beg to offer for the consideration of this Society. My catalogue (for it is scarcely more) will only contain such species as I have been able to bring with safety to this country; for many specimens, I regret to say, have been either mislaid or destroyed.

As my purpose is simply to enumerate fishes of Cochin, the periods of the year at which they arrive, and the uses or abuses to which they are put, I shall take Dr. Günther's most valuable catalogue as my text-book, adhere to his arrangement, and as closely as